

REMARKS

Claims 14-20, previously withdrawn from consideration, are cancelled. Claims 29-32 are cancelled. Therefore, claims 21-28 remain pending in this application.

Specification

In the Office Action dated August 28, 2002, the Examiner objected to the specification because pages 5 and 6 of the specification make specific reference to the claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended these pages to delete the references to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 24, 25, and 27 have been amended, and are believed to fully satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. Claims 29 and 31 have been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 30 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. in view of Ukai et al. Claims 30 and 32 have been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection moot.

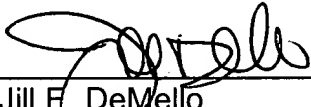
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 1.28.03

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APPENDIX

24. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for surface treatment according to claim 23, wherein the means for promoting adhesion of the ClF_3 gas to the object to be processed is provided in the mount, the means for promoting adhesion thereby [for] cooling the object to be processed on the mount.

25. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for surface treatment according to claim 24, wherein the means for activating the ClF_3 gas heats the object to be processed in a heating position at a distance from an object setting position [for setting] of the object on the mount.

27. (Twice Amended) A cluster device comprising: the apparatus for surface treatment according to claim 21, further comprising:

a transport chamber for maintaining a non-reactive atmosphere therein and for transporting an object to be processed in the non-reactive atmosphere to and from the [surface processing] apparatus for surface treatment; and

at least one processing apparatus for transporting the object to be processed to and from the transport chamber.

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